

Data Cymru update – WSLC June 2024

Recently launched projects:

1. Strategic Data Leads network (SDLn)

The SDLn is a local government network for senior data officers i.e. those officers that have overall, strategic responsibility for data, its management and its use. The network, which was set up in February 2024, will:

- offer a 'safe space' for individuals in similar roles to come together and learn from each other;
- enable local councils to work together on shared solutions to common challenges / barriers, with our support; and
- allow us to further connect with our key stakeholders so that they can inform our work programme going forward.

We have agreed that each meeting will focus on a particular data topic / challenge. At each meeting, those local councils that are tackling, or have tackled, the challenge will share their learning to help others in similar situations. We will then identify any ongoing issues that local councils are facing and agree how we, locally, and collectively, can enable everyone to rise to the challenge.

For further information please contact [Suzanne Draper](#).

2. Data maturity working group

We have established a sub-group of the SDLn, to look specifically at data maturity across local councils. The sub-group is made up of local councils that are keen to undertake a data maturity assessment. A data maturity assessment is a great first step for any council wanting to improve how they manage and use data as it allows them to identify their strengths and weaknesses.

The intention is that the group will agree a preferred approach that all (or most) local councils will follow. That way, not only will councils get the information they need in order to improve, but we can start to compile the information across Wales to understand the bigger picture and how we can help to address some of the common challenges.

For further information please contact [Suzanne Draper](#).

3. Performance profiles

We have developed a series of performance profiles to help support the local authority self-assessment process. The profiles are designed to be a resource for both corporate performance colleagues and service-based staff to help them understand their performance and how this compares to others. They will also provide valuable information to help inform Peer Panel Assessments. The profiles were shared with performance and improvement colleagues at the end of March and will be made more

widely available within councils shortly. Feedback to date has been very positive, from both local councils and peer panel colleagues alike.

For further information please contact [Suzanne Draper](#).

Key projects we're currently working on:

4. National Resident Survey

Following a successful pilot in the Vale of Glamorgan, we are now developing a National Resident Survey. The all-Wales approach will increase comparability, reduce costs, enable benchmarking, and lower the barrier to entry for those local councils who don't currently run a resident survey. The first draft of the survey has been produced bi-lingually and shared with all 22 local councils for comment. We are working through the feedback received and developing a final version of the survey. We are also working through information governance / GDPR requirements and developing the output modules. Surveys will be available from mid-July and current indications are that we will have a strong uptake in the first year - 11 councils have already indicated that they will run the survey in 2024-25.

For further information please contact [Sam Sullivan](#).

5. Youth services data collection

We have worked with Education Training Standards / WLGA to develop a survey of the youth worker workforce in Wales, as well as a survey of youth workforce employers in Wales. The aim of the surveys is to identify skills gaps and develop appropriate training programmes to address these. The survey closed at the end of April and we are cleaning and analysing the responses.

For further information please contact [Sam Sullivan](#).

6. Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)

We are designing and will be running a data collection to count the number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children for whom Welsh local councils are responsible. This will allow local councils and the Wales Strategic Migration Partnership (WSMP) to have a unified, national picture of placements, including out-of-county and out-of-country placements.

For further information please contact [Sam Sullivan](#).

7. Equalities dashboard

We are in the latter stages of developing a dashboard that allows users to explore various indicators by equality and diversity characteristics. This will be published in Q1 of 2024-25.

For further information please contact [Suzanne Draper](#).

8. Wales Strategic Migration Partnership (WSMP) dashboard and data refresh

We are in the latter stages of developing a data and dashboard refresh for the WSMP. We have brought together updated and expanded datasets on migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. This will be published in Q1 of 2024-25.

For further information please contact [Sam Sullivan](#).

Training and webinars

Training guides

We have published training guides on:

- Getting your point across: An introduction to presenting data effectively
- Understanding your information: An introduction to summary statistics
- Hearing from citizens: An introduction to designing and running surveys
- Engaging with citizens: An introduction to designing and running focus groups

They are available free of charge on our [website](#).

'Inform and Inspire' webinar programme

We host regular webinars as part of our 'inform and Inspire' webinar programme. For more information and to book tickets, please visit [TicketSource](#).

Recordings of our previous webinars can be found on our [website](#).

We are always looking for webinar content. If you have seen, done, or are doing something interesting, innovative and inspiring with data we'd love to hear about it – successful or otherwise. Equally, we'd love to hear your suggestions for future data, statistics or research topics you would you like to learn more about.

For further information, please contact [Suzanne Draper](#).

Capacity building open training programme

Are you looking to learn more about collecting and using data? Do you work with data and want to extract more value from it? Are you thinking of expanding your skills?

We have a suite of training courses that will **introduce** you to:

- Summary statistics
- Presenting data
- Survey design and analysis
- Planning and delivering focus groups.

We run each of our training courses online twice each quarter where local council colleagues can register to attend for **free**. Other organisations can attend at a cost of £50 plus vat per person, per session.

To book onto one of our open sessions, please visit [Ticketsource](#).

Currently the courses are only delivered in English with Welsh language materials and simultaneous translation available as necessary. In 2024-25, our aim is to deliver each course in Welsh at least once during the year.

We also plan to include our newer courses, *Data101* and *Understanding and Using Performance Data*, as part of our open training offering later in the year.

Alternatively, for a small cost, we can provide training courses specifically for your organisation, online or in person, at a time and date that suits you.

If you'd like to discuss your requirements, then please get in contact with [Roisin Roberts](#).